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La Péninsule Balkanique: Géographie Humaine. Par JOVAN CVIJIĆ, Professeur à l'Université de Belgrade, Agrégé à l'Université de Paris. (Paris: Armand Colin. 1918. Pp. vii, 528. 17 fr.)

IN this book the illustrious author, after a busy lifetime devoted to the study of the physical geography of the Balkan Peninsula, undertakes to bring his investigations to bear upon the Balkan man and therewith to supply us with a very welcome human geography of this intricate and fascinating region. No scholar in this field stands higher in respect of zeal, industry, and loving personal acquaintance with the widely different sections of the peninsula; and every Balkan student, particularly the American, largely dependent hitherto upon such works as Lyde and Newbigin, excellent in their way but written, as it were, from the outside, will be moved to thanks by the intimate character and native flavor of an exposition emanating from a Balkan resident, a Serb. Labelled human geography, the book rests none the less on a basis of physical geography which, when all is said, may prove to be its feature of greatest and most lasting value. For human geography is still a somewhat novel branch of knowledge and perforce lacks the logical method and scientific character of its elder sister. In the present work, for instance, the reader, when confronted with purely physical data, will feel a security and assurance which are likely to show signs of failing him on reaching the human and psychological expositions and discussions. This is, of course, not surprising, not only because physical geography has an established technique but also because its factors, such as soil, altitude, rainfall, and temperature, admit of a very exact determination. It does not do justice to Professor Cvijić to say that he is a master of his tools and data; the thing about him, the thing that makes him the unique geographer of the peninsula, is that he is on friendly terms with every separate area and gives the impression of knowing and loving every nook and corner. Whether it be a question of the wind-swept mountains of the Karst or of the green and reedy valley of the Ibar and Marica, the picture is charged with such exact and carefully distributed observation that it stands forth in the end clothed with a living spirit. The general student, habituated to thinking of the peninsula in such gross terms as Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, and Serbia, has a treat awaiting him in the several score of rich and subtly variegated landscapes by means of which the author replaces empty concepts with graphic visions.

From the point of view of the historian physical geography, aside from a mass of useful information, offers the example of a solid method likely to arouse his envy. He finds himself moving among forces of such dignity and vastness that struggling man with his joys and sorrows, with his vanities and absurd delusions, quickly dwindles to the worm he is. But human geography is another matter, simply because it is human, all too human. Doubtless it aspires in general, and certainly in the case

before us, to employ the approved method of physical geography in the hope of achieving similarly firm results. The thesis of human geography is and must be that man, member of a group, is the necessary product of his experience in one or several environments under changing social, economic, and political conditions. This experience gives birth to a psychical disposition or social soul which, itself constantly changing, determines his motives at any given time and endows him with a programme of action. To know the whole story of the formation of a human group and the succession of its earthly vicissitudes—assuming for the moment that this story can be known—is scientifically to account for its traits and qualities, or in the case of the amalgam of groups which we call nation for its outstanding national characteristics. An anthropogeography which fills this bill would largely help us to realize that passionate dream of many theorists, a scientific history. Such thoughts stir in the reader's consciousness as he follows Professor Cvijic's determination of the soul of the various Balkan groups and peoples. A fascinating game it proves to be, wherein we must admire the sure hand with which the author tabulates the factors accounting in each of the many instances he studies for the present psychical disposition of a group, perhaps the lower Morava group as distinct from the group of the upper Morava, or the Bulgar groups on either side of the Balkan range. But as for the scientific nature of the results obtained the circumspect historian will find himself assailed by doubts. For the psychical disposition of a group or people which the human geographer sets out to discover must, to be successfully described, be also evaluated, and Professor Cvijic, a modern Serb and Serb of Serbs, quite naturally brings to bear upon the problem a set of values born of our time and culminating in nationalism as the master-value. In this way he gives us an engrossing picture of the gradual and piecemeal formation of a common consciousness among the originally distinct elements of the Jugo-Slavs, but he also has the air of indicating a proud, self-conscious nationalism as the very end and apex of existence. True, in express terms he nowhere upholds this philosophical absurdity, yet he constantly implies it and does not see whither it leads him, even when he turns to the Bulgar soul and is moved to express a Serb's naïf horror at the exclusiveness and ferocity of Bulgar nationalism. In short, the anthropogeographer is likely to discover, like the historian before him, that the trouble about being scientific is not the dispute about the facts, though the historians are apparently forever wrangling over them, but changing and divergent viewpoints, that is, disagreement in the all-important matter of human values. Regrettably without an index, the book is profusely endowed with admirable maps.

FERDINAND SCHEVILL.